



Jobs For Montana's Graduates

Holiday Newsletter



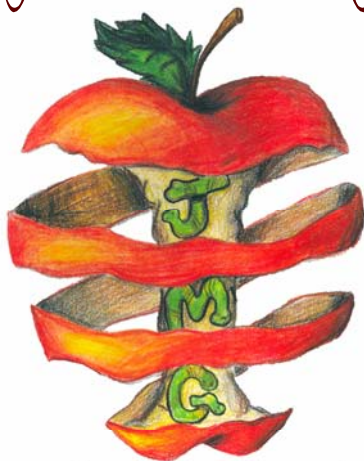
December 2005

Twelfth Annual Leadership Conference

Over 250 newly elected officers from Montana Career Association Chapters, their Job Specialists and chaperones attended the Fall Leadership Conference at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings on Wednesday, October 26. The Leadership Conference is designed to provide chapter officers the opportunity to develop their leadership and team skills. The conference offers the students many activities that can be taken back and used with the local chapters. The guest speaker this year was Mr. Bill Cortes, a motivational speaker from Kansas. The students, as well as others in attendance, enjoyed the comical and thought-provoking antics of this dynamic, inspirational guest speaker.



Faith Grover from Capital High School in Helena, sang the National Anthem at this year's conference.



**The core of
our future**

Logo Design

The Logo Event winner at this year's conference was designed by Helena PAL, Project for Alternative Learning, entitled, "JMG-The Core of Our Future". The winning design will be used on JMG documents and t-shirts for the spring conference that will be held in May.



Montana Youth Challenge from Dillon presented the colors at the Leadership Conference in Billings. Those students were: Marshal Meyer, Casey Mitchell, Auston McDonald and Dalton Scott.





Logo winners at this year's conference were Helena PAL- 1st Place; North Star - 2nd Place; and Billings Career Center received 3rd Place.
"Congratulations on a fine job!"



Bill Cortes, guest speaker at this year's Leadership Conference; Lorelee Robinson, past director for JMG; Drea Brown, newly appointed state director; and Jim Lambert, Program Specialist.



National Leadership Event



Four students were chosen to represent Montana at the National Leadership Event that will be held December 7th through the 11th in Washington D.C.

Winners of Montana's competition and those who will be attending are: *Victor King* of Rudyard's, North Star HS; *Eywon Lambert* of Culbertson HS; *David Leibrand* of Scobey HS and *Jaimee Little* of Helena HS.

Students were asked to write an essay describing their thoughts on leadership, what it meant to them and why they should be chosen to attend the event.

We received many letters and they were all done real well, but unfortunately, only four can be appointed to attend the conference. The students chosen will attend various activities associated with leadership, participate in competitive events, tour the nation's spectacular monuments and other points of interest and meet many influential people from all over the nation, including: Miss America and First Lady, Laura Bush.



Students attending the Leadership Conference at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings numbered close to 200, and came from all over the state. Some traveled from as far away as Libby in the west and Culbertson in the east.





Jobs for Montana's Graduates Photo Gallery



Students from the SUNS JMG program in Havre have been busy with two projects as part of their Program Of Work. For Civic awareness the students assisted the Community Education program judge the elementary school's Red Ribbon Week Bags. Each year students from the elementary schools design grocery bags promoting drug awareness. The JMG students then judged these bags and the winning bags were displayed at the Holiday Village Mall; while other bags went back to the grocery store, spreading prevention and drug awareness within the community. SUNS students also planned and taught art lessons to elementary students; making turkey pin magnets, snowflakes, gingerbread men and other art projects as part of their Leadership Development with JMG. By getting involved, the JMG students have made an impact on their young charges and created positive role models as well.



Welcome New Schools and Job Specialists

We want to extend a big welcome to the following new Job Specialists and their respective schools: Irene Strauss of **Whitehall**; Erin Canak, of **Brockton**; Rebecca Ginter, Frazer; Darlene Kolczak, Malta; Joe Barbero, Billings Career Center; Ramona Horn, Dodson; Peggy Frederickson, Lame Deer; Bill Isbell, Geyser; Lisa Parker of Helena High; Sharon Lindquist of Dawson County, Glendive; Jill Page in Glasgow and Hope Speak Thunder and Rod Donahue, both from Harlem.

We would like to wish these teachers continued success with JMG! A good JMG program begins with a great Job Specialist and we want to commend you all on your enthusiastic approach to helping students succeed!



Note: Those schools in boldface are new programs as well.

It's a Life Lesson!

Spending time volunteering, some would say, is a civic duty. It is a life lesson to begin learning at an early age. More than 120 students from Helena middle and high schools spent a couple of days in November volunteering at the 2005 Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament. Local venues include Helena High School, Capital High School, C.R. Anderson Middle School and Helena Middle School. Students were kept busy with scorekeeping, running the clocks and encouraging the competitors on the benches.

Kallie Mannin, a JMG student from Helena High, believes volunteering is an important role for community members. "I'm doing it to give back to the community," she said. "Volunteering makes it a better place to live," replied Kallie.

The volunteer ratio is normally about 60 percent adults, but the Olympic basketball event is about 70 percent students. Helena High JMG student Jaimee Little is looking forward to volunteering too. "It is going to be a good experience," she said. "They can do the same skills we can do." For another Helena High JMG student, Ashley Obert, this won't be her first experience with Special Olympics. She accompanied her father on a few trips to Glacier National Park with a group from the Special Olympics. Obert describes her past experience as a lot of fun and is looking forward to her upcoming commitment to volunteer.



Students were asked to break into groups and discuss their respective offices. Brad and Drew, from the "president's section", converse with fellow colleagues regarding issues with school rules and regulations.

Career Fair

The Bridger Chapter of Jobs for Montana's Graduates held their 8th Annual "Scouting Out Careers" Career Fair on Wednesday, November 30th in the Shrine Auditorium in Billings. Close to 800 students were present from all over eastern and south-central Montana. Vicki Kaufman, Job Specialist from Bridger's JMG class, expressed that there is a great demand for this type of event in the greater Billings region. The students, as well as teachers and administrators, appreciate the Bridger JMG class for providing this career experience!



December 2, 2005
Jim Lambert, Editor

Published by: Jobs for Montana's Graduates
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59624-1728

Drea Brown, State Coordinator
Phone: 406-444-0978
Fax: 406-444-3037